

Hawaii House of Representatives Interim Working Group



Food, Water and Other Supplies Working Group

Survey Results



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Methodology

To be inclusive, the Food, Water and Other Supplies Working Group (Working Group) conducted a public survey using Google Forms on how to improve disaster response following the Lahaina wildfire. The survey, also known as the "We Are Listening Survey," asked for direct recommendations as well as feedback on multiple items which may become recommendations for future legislation.

Given the limited time and resources, Working Group did not attempt to mitigate sampling bias. Instead, the survey was distributed through social media, email, and government meetings with the purpose of soliciting knowledgeable feedback from those persons who were directly involved in the disaster response and affected by the wildfire, including government officials and agencies, members of the State Emergency Support Function Annex #6 (Mass Care & Human Services), non-governmental organizations, and most importantly community members. The diverse group of experts and community members surveyed include Federal Emergency Management Agency and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency officials, community board members, University of Hawaii Professors, Maui Humane Society members, Hawaii VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), Ho‘omalulu Lomi Healing Lahaina, food system planners, farmers, shipping and supply chain industry professionals, local food systems leaders, homeless program specialists, education specialists, independent health and environmental consultants, fire safety prevention consultants, EMF consultants, participants in public utilities commission regulatory proceedings, agroforestry experts, climate experts, residents of Maui, and many others.

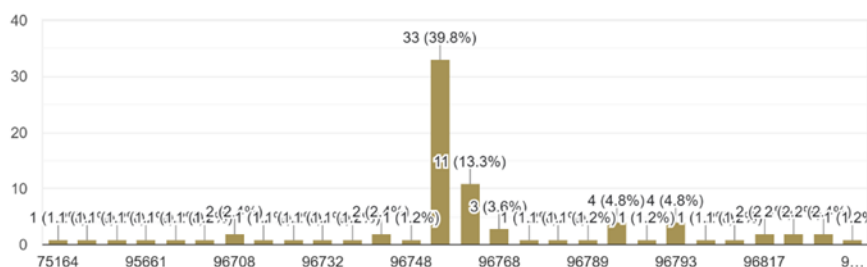
Responses to the survey were broad. No input was censored, all public were invited to participate.

To ensure frank responses, respondents were allowed to keep their responses anonymous. Only 33.3% of the respondents requested anonymity.

The home zip code of respondents was also collected to allow responses from Maui residents to be separated from other responses if desired.

What is your home zip code?

83 responses





Survey Responses

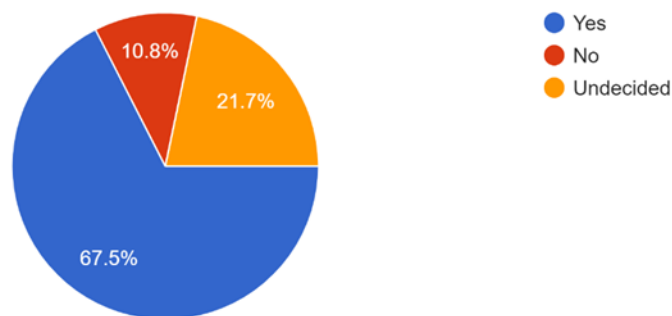
Survey Element 1A: Additional Dedicated Disaster Relief Personnel

Full Survey Question: Do you support funding of a new team of dedicated State agency personnel (e.g. DHS, DLIR, DOH or others) for immediate post-disaster deployment?

Results:

Do you support funding of a new team of dedicated State agency personnel (e.g. DHS, DLIR, DOH or others) for immediate post-disaster deployment?

83 responses



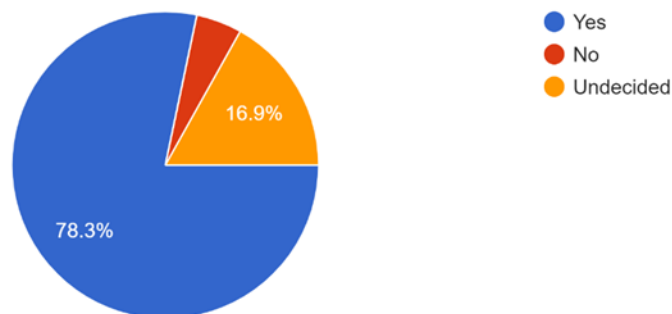
Survey Element 1B: Emergency Personnel Surge Capabilities

Full Survey Question: Do you support an emergency personnel surge capability to improve disaster response including voluntary paid cross training of State Employees or an Emergency Response Corp (ERC) or related ideas?

Results:

Do you support an emergency personnel surge capability to improve disaster response including voluntary paid cross training of State Employees ... Emergency Response Corp (ERC) or related ideas?

83 responses





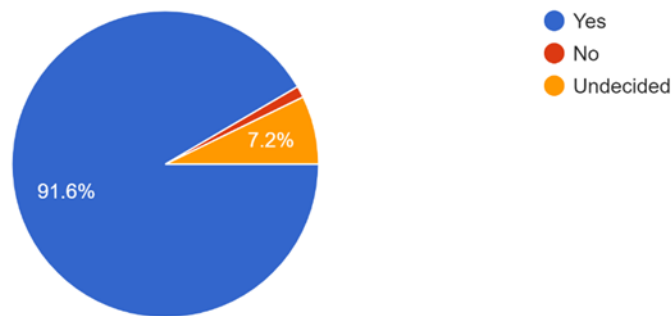
Survey Element 2: Foodbank Reserves

Full Survey Question: Do you support increasing foodbank reserves for disaster readiness and pre-authorizing a limited emergency funding reserve to enable foodbanks to purchase replacement food without delay in the event of a declared disaster?

Results:

Do you support increasing foodbank reserves for disaster readiness and pre-authorizing a limited emergency funding reserve to enabling foodbanks to...without delay in the event of a declared disaster?

83 responses



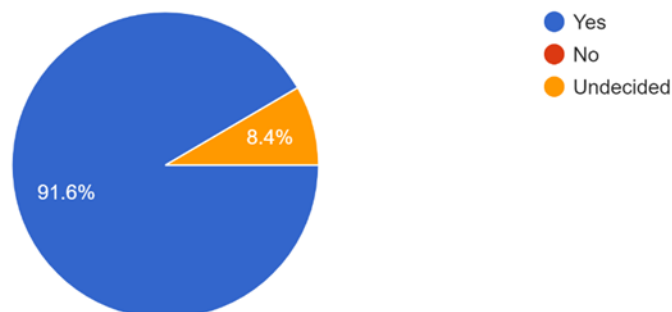
Survey Element 3: Right to Gardening

Full Survey Question: Do you support a 'right to garden ordinance' that gives both economic and food resiliency benefits allowing vegetable gardens on residential properties and prohibits regulating such gardens (known in 1940s as [victory gardens](#)).

Results:

Do you support a 'right to garden ordinance' that gives both economic and food resiliency benefits allowing vegetable gardens on residential properti...such gardens (known in 1940s as victory gardens).

83 responses





Survey Element 4: A Utility Co-operative Model

Full Survey Question: Maui has the highest electricity costs in the nation along with aging infrastructure. There is the possibility of Electric utility restructuring due to lawsuits. Do you support performing a study to investigate feasibility of HECO being restructured as a co-op run utility in analogy with the [Kauai Island Utility Cooperative](#) with the purpose of increasing resiliency, safety, and lowering emissions, while reducing costs?

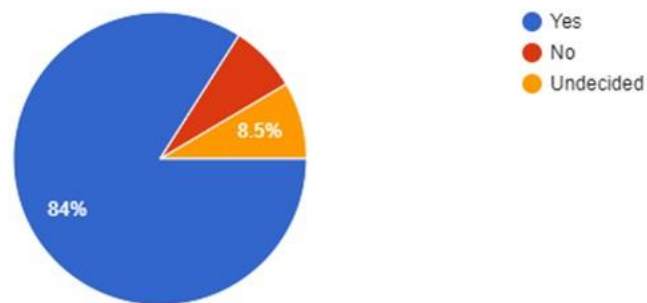
Results:

Maui has the highest electricity costs in the nation along with aging infrastructure.

There is the possibility of Electric utility restructuring due to lawsuits.

Do you support performing a study to investigate feasibility of HECO being restructured as a co-op run utility in analogy with the [Kauai Island Utility Cooperative](#) with the purpose of increasing resiliency, safety, and lowering emissions, while reducing costs?

94 responses



Comments and Ideas from Community Members

The survey asked the following optional question:

"What FWS disaster responses could be improved? Specifically, do you have a specific idea that will improve 'Food Water or other Supply' acquisition or distribution? (This is for FWS only, not for other areas like housing.)"

The following are direct comments from those surveyed. Editing occurred for clarity only, not content. Note that several of these responses from people are reflected in Working Group's recommendations. All community recommendations are taken seriously and are under consideration for future legislation.

Responses:

- Explore ways to ensure supplies are getting to shut ins.



- Give gift cards to people who need clothes rather than relying on donations. I volunteered at a center and a good percentage of the clothing donated was not appropriate and it was very time consuming to process.
- Identify multiple locations that will be designated distribution centers and a back up to each location; distribute this information to residents without there being an active disaster
- Get avocados and other crops from (local farmers).
- Non-perishable commodities should be stored by Maui.
- This question requires a deep discussion with Lahaina community and the people who were able to source food and water to the community at least a week before we saw state or federal resources arrive. The flexibility and ingenuity of people in the first days after the fire saved lives.
- U.S. military on Oahu should be first to respond in times of emergency.
- Have readily deployable emergency relief containers to deliver essential supplies promptly to victims of tragedies. Maintain communication and cooperation with the shipping industry to provide relief and support in times of crisis. Containers packaged with FWS to alleviate the immediate suffering of those affected.
- Hotels ought to have emergency food and water (canned plain water exists and has a long shelf life) on site - if they don't.
- State-wide electronic system to track managed by State and includes coordinate input by Counties.
- Get authorization to use military choppers to fly in medical supplies.
- My Hawaii Emergency Food Planning Scaffold (LINK) lays out emergency food planning needs at various scales (household to state).
- The county was totally unprepared for the Lahaina wildfire disaster, similar to previous incidents. Support came from residents until FEMA & Red Cross stepped in, arrived.
- Need dual systems for R-1 water irrigation and potable fresh drinking water. Water distribution tanks for 5-gallon refills.
- Sustainable Ag, Better Water Allocation (golf courses, really?).
- Emergency preparedness preparations; (better) communication during an emergency, information to the people before, during and after.
- More regenerative agriculture.
- Online form distribution.
- Create a vendor managed inventory with retailers, frequently used disaster food/supplies are warehoused/managed by private sector to combat just in time shipping. Most suppliers/retailers engage in just in time shipping including large suppliers e.g., C&S Wholesale Grocers. Many do not have generators =spoilage.
- Readiness so that people don't have to wait, and the community doesn't need to be footing the bill.
- It seems that the emergency water supply responses have taken far too long, in Lahaina and Upcountry.
- Reverse 911 system like California set up for residents for both emergency evacuation and emergency food and supply check points for food and water across the islands.
- Utilize churches for supply centers like for the homeless AND emergencies.



- Create maps for FWS and public media campaign to address ahead of time.
- Many folks worked diligently to provide basics, that was well done. I did feel Napili Park was a bit far for Lahaina folks without cars. Honokowai and S-Turns parks were transformed into help centers; that was wonderful to see. "Airport" and Canoe beach would perhaps be more accessible.
- Water supplies and appropriate uses at all times so disasters don't cause unnecessary deaths. Water is wasted every day by homeowners' lawns and poorly built and maintained sprinkler & drip systems. Massive water discharge from fire hydrant occurs near me into sewer drains every night after 10pm.
- I'd say chain of command. Communication from immediate community members throughout the steps onward to high-ranking government officials.
- State-wide electronic system to track managed by State and includes coordinate input by Counties.
- Instead of waiting for supplies to be delivered to designated shelters, perhaps a small amount should always be on hand. Example Lahaina Civic, Lahaina Fire Station, Lahaina Police Station. 5-10 cases at each location could have helped so many. I'd like to elaborate on this. Please contact me. Not enough space.
- Why would we build back buildings that are "less bad" for people and planet (LEED) when we can build buildings that are "good" for people and planet (Living Building Challenge). Living buildings capture and treat all water on site and have a local, healthy food imperative.
- Helping residents grow home food gardens.
- Get rid of all hubs, and Facebook posts with much different information, times places its confusing. It needs to be centralized.
- The county was totally unprepared for the Lahaina wildfire disaster, similar to previous incidents. Support came from residents until FEMA & Red Cross stepped in, arrived.
- Key communication across the board!
- MRE food storage for disaster prep/response.
- Honolulu BWS addressed drinking water contaminants for toxic cluster by providing toxic data before and after water treatment.
- Rather than relying on volunteers, hire people to work at distribution centers.
- County in case of emergencies.
- Emergency alerts! None were done both before and during the fires near me, nor about the potential water contamination over the last 2 months!
- More data on demographic breakdown of displaced residents. Ethnicity, children, adults, elders.
- Financial grants for community distribution.
- Whatever it takes zoning-wise to get small houses built. 3D printed houses can be done the cheapest I believe (see recent 60 Minutes segment). More support for organic farmers and Maui Hub that distributes their food.¹

¹ Note from Co-Chair Amato: Legislative staff is in touch with the NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts inventors of the 3D concrete printer technology.



- Use Cal Fires model to identify areas of need (currently being used for reentry). So zone 1a gets supplies from Truck A. Communicate and help locals take care of each other.
- Apartment complexes ought to be allowed to grow food on site.
- Replace overly rapid growing, ornamental trees with ulu, avocado, bananas, papaya trees...etc. on hotel/condo/apt grounds.
- Community garden.
- It was difficult to get a clear projection from the multiple organizations that provided meals on how much was needed so we accurately request donations. It is not clear if after a point there are funds available to procure the beef vs. continuing to rely on donations.
- Need more water to distribute.
- Island-wide fire prevention: controlled burns, brush removal by housing areas, planting trees & food crops in place of flammable grass, more fire stations in vulnerable areas (e.g., Olowalu & S. Lahaina). More firemen.
- Fire Bissen for proposing cuts to fire prevention on Maui!! Burned towns provide no tax revenue!
- Weed/grass abatement, keeping gullies cleared, fire breaks 100 feet around Maui Meadows.
- Make a way that handicapped people can get in & out of hubs instead of blocking the outside and making it impossible to park near or drive through.
- Local communities, TSA, and VOAD are the fastest at distributing food. Community hubs should be identified, and provided with prepositioned resources, including PPE, training, and technical assistance when providing hot meals. Executive agencies with USDA food programs need emergency management personnel and support.
- Faster response to test for safe water in fire areas.
- More timely information on a developing emergency and how to respond to it, delivered in multiple ways.
- More coordination with donations and volunteer management. The ability for survivors to use funds for vouchers or gift cards to select local foods and needed supplies to attain what they need and while supporting the local economy also impacted by the disaster.
- Water and Safety all need huge improvement.
- Clean upcountry ditches!!
- Provide money cards pre-loaded with disaster relief funds for survivors to use at restaurants, delis, open markets, grocers.
- Provide information to population in a timely manner.
- Need real time info on drinking water quality.
- Better emergency alert system.
- Development of an infrared imaging early warning system would have saved countless lives: Fund Maui/Hawai'i technology businesses that can develop early warning systems. Develop test protocols for early warning. Air and water sampling are problematic, we need local companies to invent solutions & fill these needs.